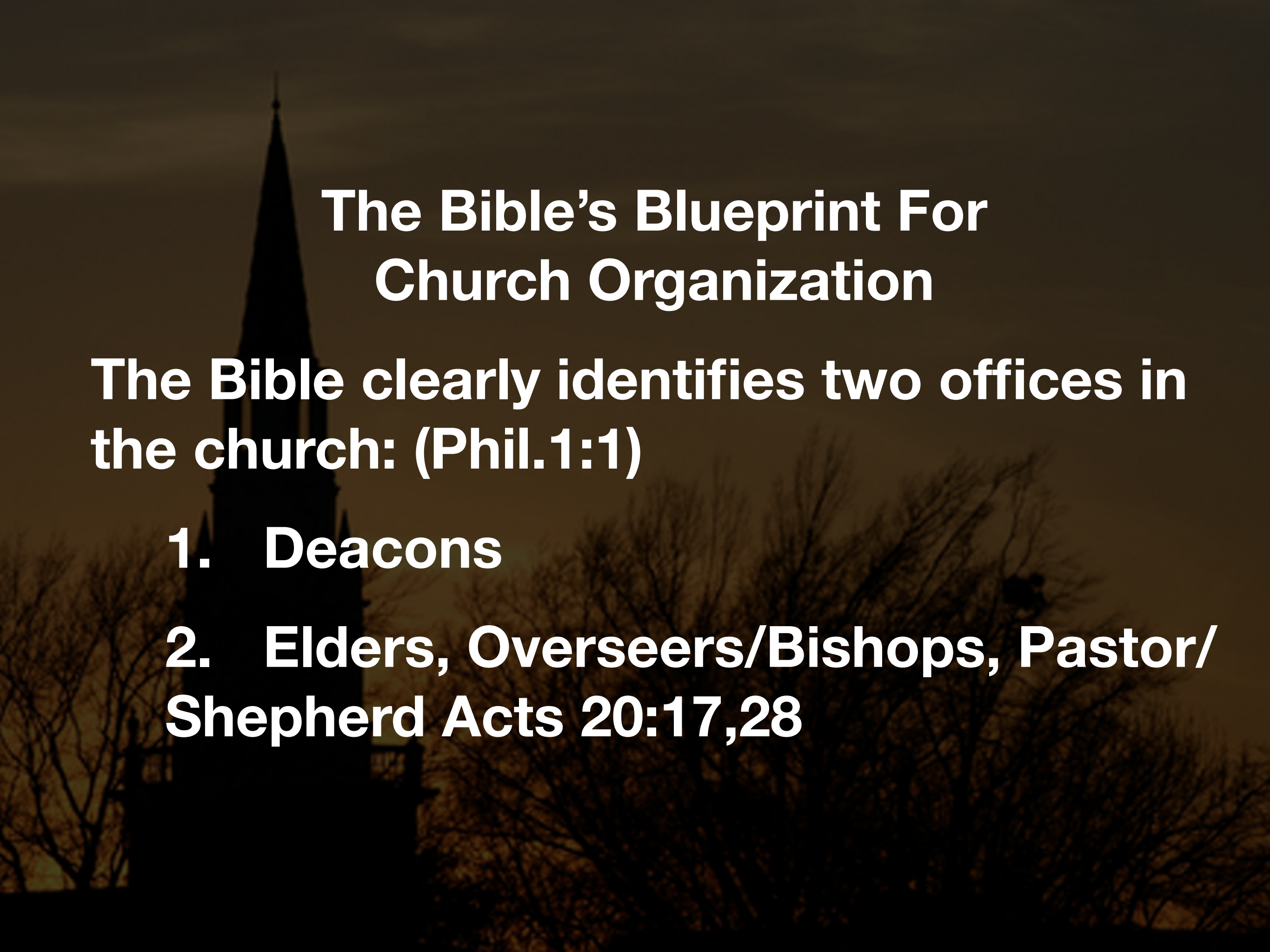


The background of the image is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise sky. On the left side, there is a dark silhouette of a church steeple with a pointed roof and a small cross on top. In the foreground and middle ground, there are silhouettes of bare trees with intricate branch structures. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

# THE CHURCH:

## A DISPLAY OF GOD'S GLORY





# **The Bible's Blueprint For Church Organization**

**The Bible clearly identifies two offices in  
the church: (Phil.1:1)**

**1. Deacons**

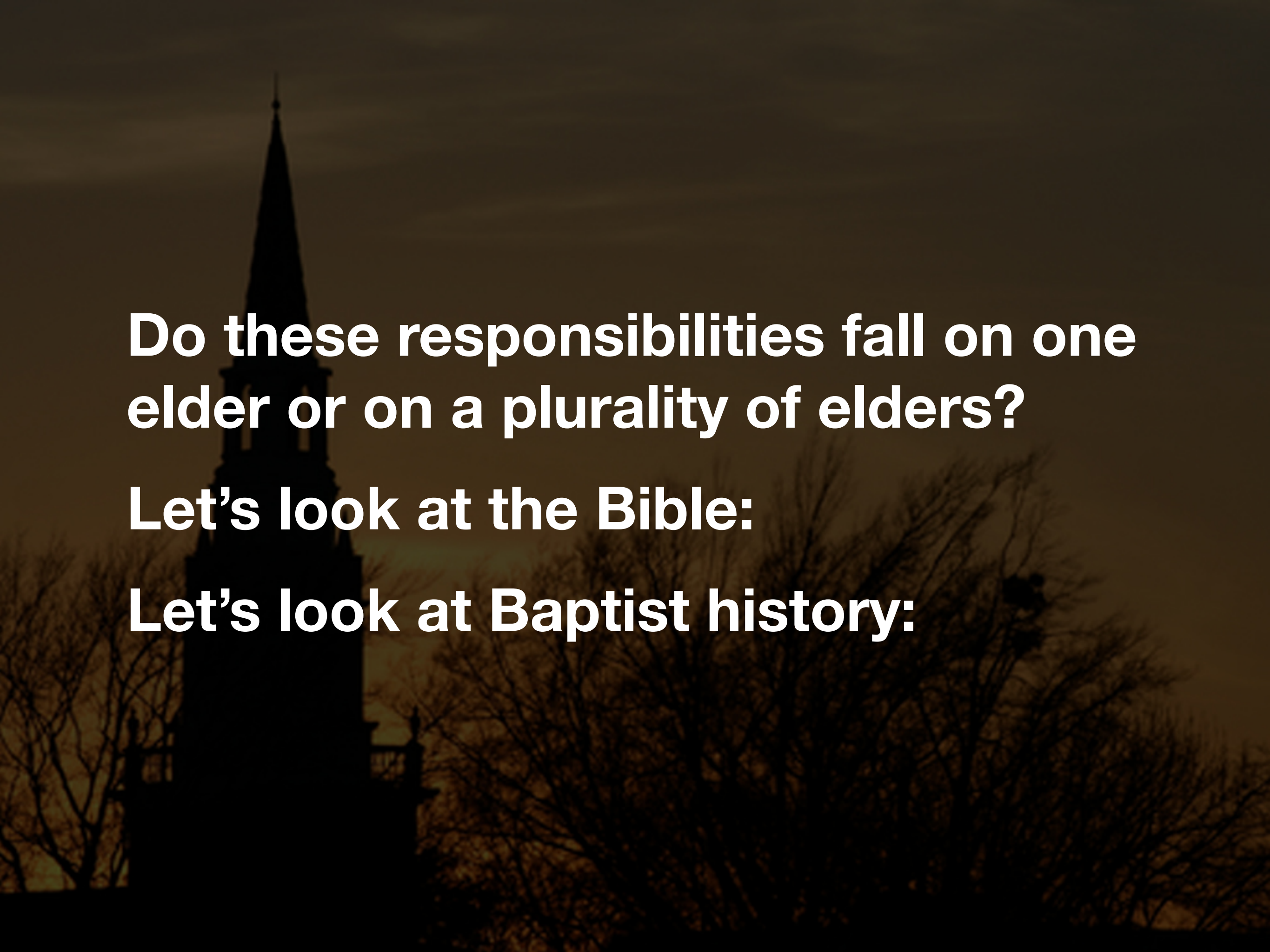
**2. Elders, Overseers/Bishops, Pastor/  
Shepherd Acts 20:17,28**

- Elder = Who the person is (a mature believer) | Tim. 3:1-7
- Overseer/Bishop = What the person does (guards and oversees)
- Pastor/Shepherd = How the elder oversees (like a shepherd)

The responsibility of elders can be boiled down to 3 things:

Direction, Doctrine, and Discipline

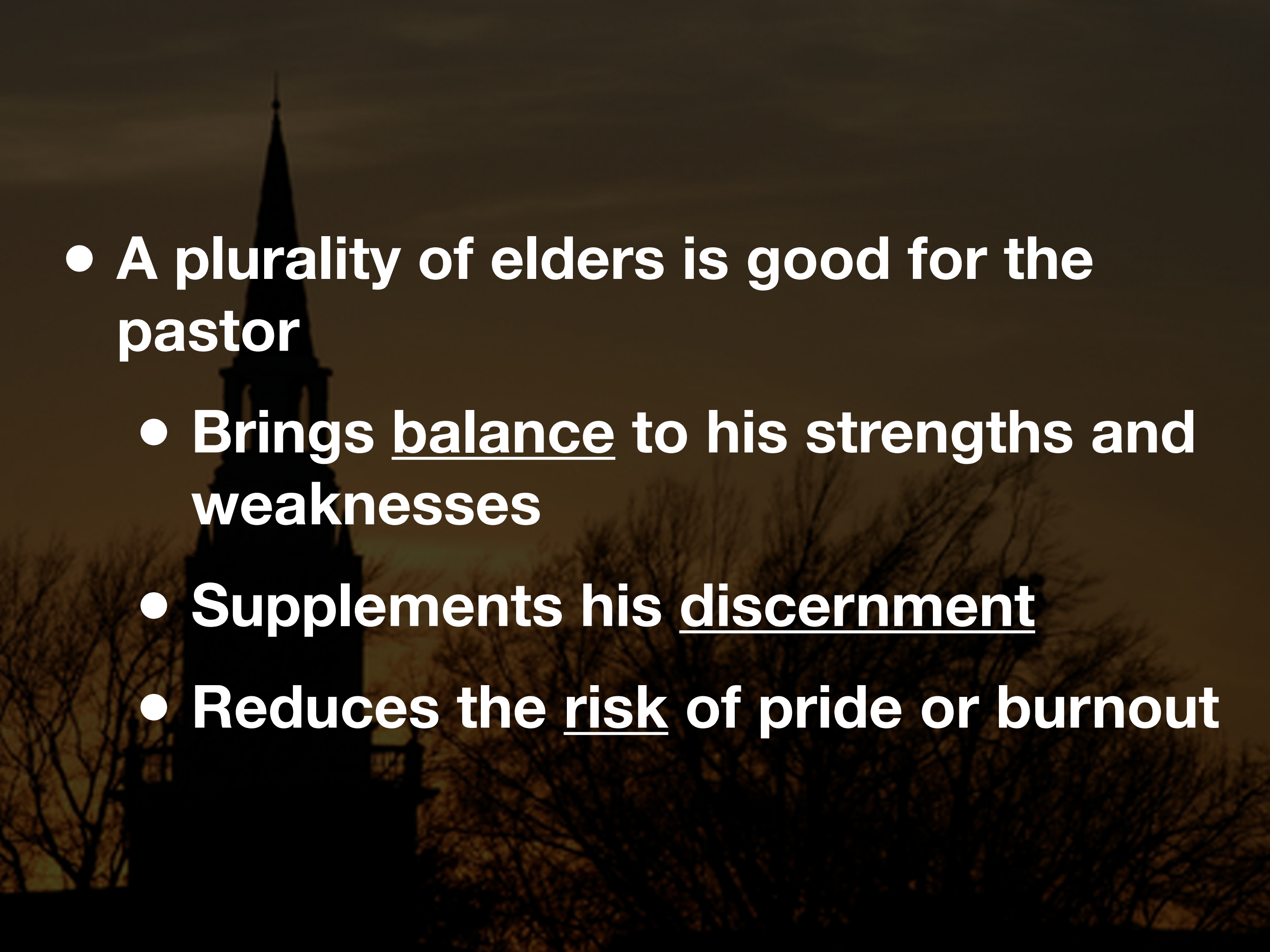




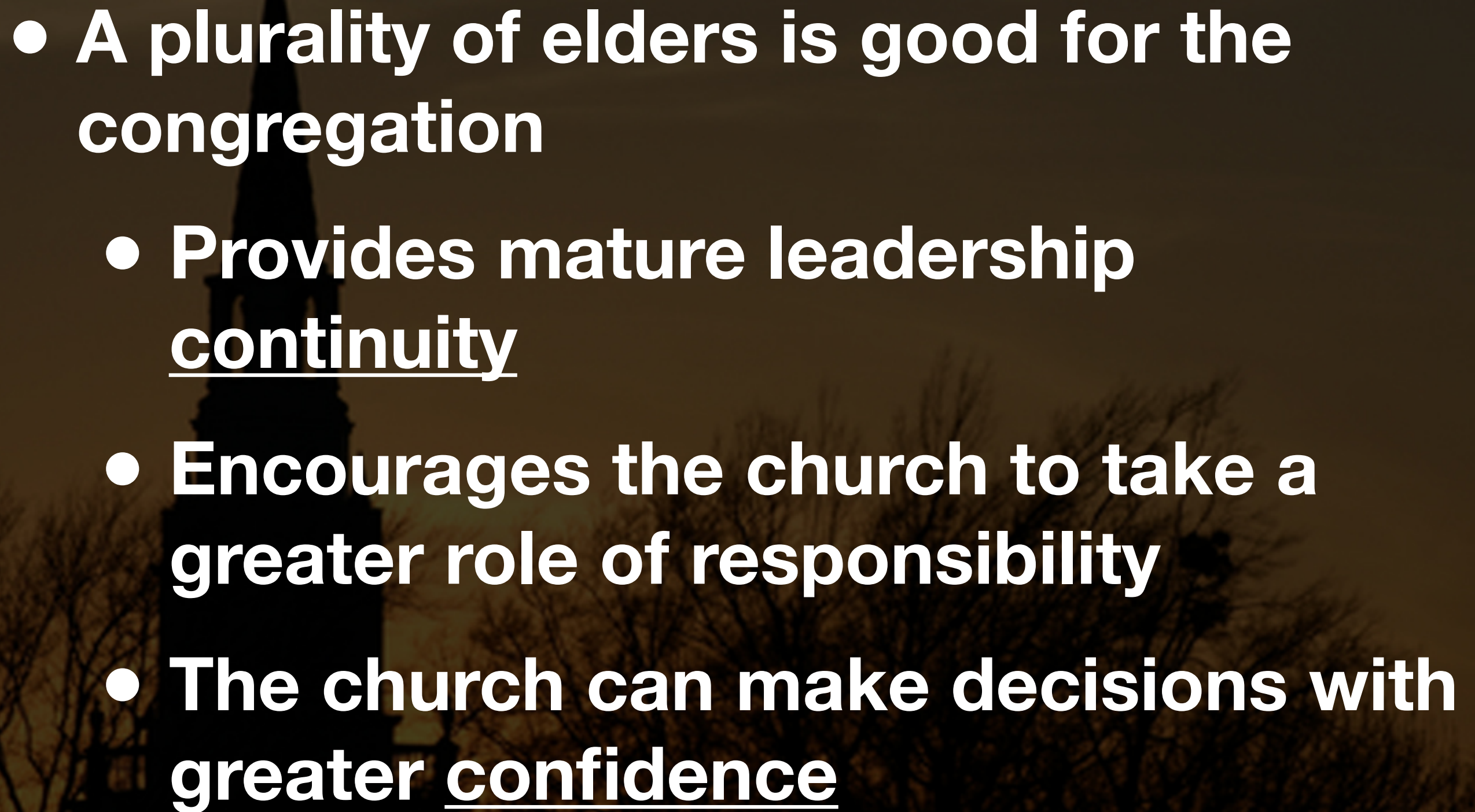
**Do these responsibilities fall on one elder or on a plurality of elders?**

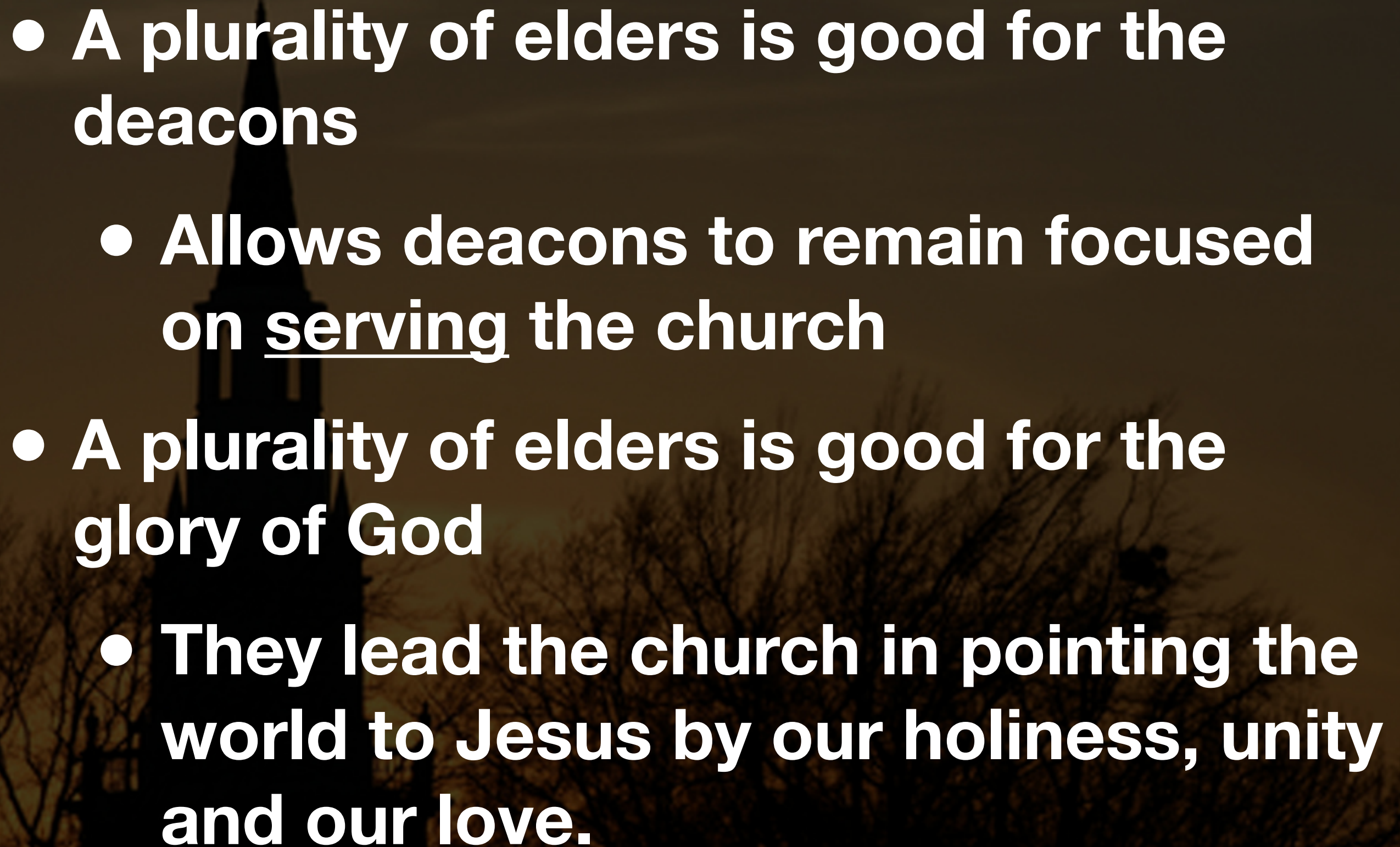
**Let's look at the Bible:**

**Let's look at Baptist history:**

- 
- **A plurality of elders is good for the pastor**
    - **Brings balance to his strengths and weaknesses**
    - **Supplements his discernment**
    - **Reduces the risk of pride or burnout**



- 
- **A plurality of elders is good for the congregation**
    - **Provides mature leadership continuity**
    - **Encourages the church to take a greater role of responsibility**
    - **The church can make decisions with greater confidence**

- 
- **A plurality of elders is good for the deacons**
    - **Allows deacons to remain focused on serving the church**
  - **A plurality of elders is good for the glory of God**
    - **They lead the church in pointing the world to Jesus by our holiness, unity and our love.**